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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Art Unit: 3679 : Confirmation No. 8959  
: :  
: :  
In re application of: : Title:  
Diggle et al. : Split P-Hook  
Serial No.: 10/646,006 :  
: :  
Filed: August 22, 2003 :

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pittsburgh, PA  
October 13, 2004

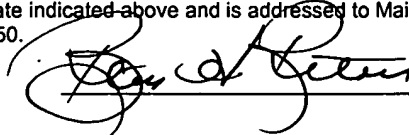
Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Commissioner:

Applicants, in accordance with the duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, hereby advise the United States Patent and Trademark Office of the references listed on the accompanying Forms PTO/SB/08A *Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant* (substitute for Form 1449A/PTO).

Express Mail Number ED 249 800 71305  
Date of Deposit October 13, 2004

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
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Applicants note that although the cited references may be relevant to the examination of the above-referenced application, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(h), the filing of this *Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant* "shall not be construed to be an admission that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in § 1.56(b)."

Applicants further note that the filing of this *Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant* is not an admission that the references cited herein constitute prior art under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102-103 with respect to the captioned application.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3), Applicants submit that no fee is necessary for consideration of this *Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant*. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additionally required fees deemed necessary for consideration of this *Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant* to Account No. 11-1110.

Respectfully submitted,



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PTO/SB/08A (10-01)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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<b>Substitute for form 1449A/PTO</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (use as many sheets as necessary)		<b>Complete if Known</b>			
		Application Number	10/646,006		
		Filing Date	August 22, 2003		
		First Named Inventor	Diggle		
		Art Unit	3679		
		Examiner Name			
Sheet	1	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	030266

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		US-5,606,832A	03-1997	Keith et al.	
		US-4,157,001A	06-1979	Pickles, Allan E.	
		US-4,018,023A	04-1977	Anderson, Ralph A.	
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		US-1,798,468A	03-1931	HARTZLER MELVIN E. et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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		Number - Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		US-4,289,058A	09-1981	Paskert, Joseph H.	
		US-3,088,361A	05-1963	LAY HALLOCK ROBERT	
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		US2004/0129496	07-2004	Clark, Dale	

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